

LEARNING THROUGH ASSISTING

**Rhode Island Disabilities Council
Model Service Learning Project**

UNIT TWO:
Introducing *Learning Through Assisting* To Your Community

Introducing *Learning Through Assisting* To Your Community

TITLE: An Invitation to Serve: Introducing *Learning Through Assisting* to Students

APPROACHING AN AGENCY: Introducing Service Learning to Your Community

KEY WORDS: Civic education, diversity, community awareness, character education, responsibility, service, community, experiential learning.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Community agency staff and administrators


AT THE COMPLETION OF THIS UNIT, THE PARTICIPANT WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Understand the concept of service or experiential education, and the role of the community in fostering this kind of learning.
2. Be able to visualize how this agency can accommodate and promote learning for students while agency consumers benefit from student energy and abilities.
3. List 3 agency activities into which students can be assimilated and 3 staff who can commit 2 hours per week to the project.
4. Understand how careful direction of the student, regular thoughtful feedback and expressed expectations with supervision benefit everyone.

SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

1. PowerPoint: *Learning Through Assisting* Project Overview


OTHER RESOURCES: N/A



Learning Through Assisting

**A Service Learning Model from the
Rhode Island Developmental
Disabilities Council**

Project of National Significance
Federal Administration on
Developmental Disabilities



Learning Through Assisting

Objectives:

1. Understand service learning
2. Know about Learning Through Assisting
3. Be able to tell your program about LTA
4. Know how to start this project in your state

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Individual and Family Advocacy Committee

Service Learning objective background:

- ❏ Current HS students are in a 'contact gap' with relation to developmental disability
- ❏ Service learning is not well understood, but could have possibilities
- ❏ Opportunities to address the 'gap' seemed within reach

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The Institute for Quality of Life

IQoL is an independent consultancy with a mission of research, advocacy and education for, by, and about people with disability.

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The Model

❖ Hope High School – JROTC Cadets



❖ Linked with Family Service for training Cadets and service opportunities with children with DD.



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A Word About Army JROTC

Two-tiered mission

- ❖ High school completion
- ❖ Leadership development
 - ❖ Requires service learning

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Definition of Service Learning

A method students use to learn and develop through thoughtfully organized service



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Definition of Service Learning

Student needs assessment.


 **Personal growth**



 **Academic success**

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Definition of Service Learning

 **Conducted in and meets community needs**

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Definition of Service Learning

- 👉 Conducted in and meets community needs
- 👉 Coordinated with an institution of higher education and community agencies or services

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Definition of Service Learning

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- 👉 Integrated into and enhances academic curriculum

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Definition of Service Learning

- ☛ Conducted in and meets a community need
- ☛ Coordinated with an institution of higher education and community agencies or services
- ☛ Integrated into and enhances academic curriculum
- ☛ Helps foster civic responsibility
- ☛ Includes structured time for reflection

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Service Learning Assessment



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Learning Through Assisting

- ☛ Provides experiential learning opportunity for high school students linked with service agencies.
- ☛ Learn about developmental disabilities
- ☛ Interact with youngsters with developmental disabilities
- ☛ Positively influence attitudes and behaviors on integration and full inclusion

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Objective Benefits The Children



Children with developmental disabilities:

- ☞ Receive assistance participating in community-based activities
- ☞ Gain advocates in community through self-promotion
- ☞ Grow in the community

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Objective Benefits The Students



High school students

- ☞ Gain knowledge in service environment
- ☞ Receive academic credits for alternative learning
- ☞ Find out about themselves
- ☞ Develop inclusive attitudes

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Service

Eight weeks of two-hour service blocks

- ☞ Early intervention pool program
- ☞ Hospital waiting room
- ☞ Speech therapist aide
- ☞ Child care 1:1 support



- ☞ Therapeutic play
- ☞ Charter school swim program

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Getting Started in Your Community

- 👉 Contact local DD Council to explore resources and/or introduce your interest (www.nacdd.org)
- 👉 Contact state Department of Education, Service Learning resource person
- 👉 See what your Department of Special Education is doing for alternative learning
- 👉 Contact state community service agencies

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Make a Difference in Your Community



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**Get Started
in Your Community**

Visit:

www.learningthroughassisting.org

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